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17 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: NM 17.2-59: The Outlook for Portugal

1. This estimate was based on at the request of The Joint Staff

who were concerned at reports that Salazar's grip on Portugal
was loosening and who wanted to know what the consequences
of such an event might be for US and NATO bases.

2. Our examination led us to conclude that Salazar very
likely would depart in the next couple of years, that the
succession was uncertain, but that any likely successor would
be well disposed to the continuation of Western base rights.
The possibilities of trouble that we see are somewhat different.
First, that Salazar's successor will lack his prestige and firm
central control, and more important, that the intense Portuguese
desire to retain the country's overseas possessions may lead
to reactions against the West if it fails to support Portugal
when and if these possessions are challenged.

3. The USIS Agency representatives concurred entirely with
this analysis, and the preparation of the paper involved no dis-
agreements or difficulties.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

Harrison Kent
Assistant Director

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